

WE are Lakota



A Look Around Lakota

District E-Newsletter

December 1, 2020 Edition

FEATURED In This Issue



WATCH: Persevering through a Pandemic

On Nov. 17, Lakota celebrated a very important milestone: three months of in-person learning. A special live video premiere featured students and staff sharing all that they've overcome so far this school year.

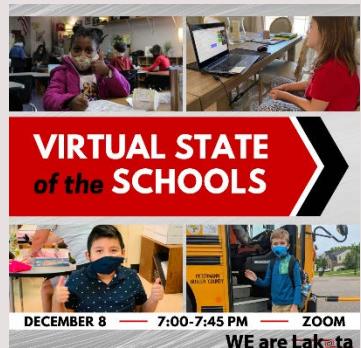
This year's theme, "WE Can," set the tone for an academic year especially marked by perseverance, grit and



Meet the Board: Kelley Casper

Lakota Local Schools is excited to introduce our community to the members of the Board of Education. Through December, you'll get to know more about each of the five members.

Meet **Kelley Casper**, a former teacher and proud Lakota parent who has served on numerous committees at the district level since 2005, including District



Lakota Gears Up for Virtual State of the Schools Dec. 8

Lakota's annual "State of the Schools" event returns next Tuesday, Dec. 8, giving parents, students, staff and community members a 45-minute overview of the district's top priorities, as they related to current and future work. Although virtual, the event maintains its purpose to keep the

determination. Watch the 3-minute video to see what school looks like and what students and staff are saying about the year. Thank you to our students, staff, families and friends for standing by us during these challenging times. WE can and will get through this!

[Watch the video](#)

Parent Council, strategic planning, redistricting and levy committees. Mrs. Casper is in her third year as a board member and serves as vice president. In addition, she also serves on the Community Engagement, Legislative and Safety Committees, and is the OSBA Legislative Liaison and Voting Delegate.

community informed about the current and future outlook of our schools.

[Read more](#)

[Watch the video](#)

School Features

- [COVID-19 Updates: Snow Days, Mask Wearing](#)
- [November Words of Wisdom Spotlights Thankfulness](#)
- [Heritage Debuts StoryWalks® for In-Person and VLO Families](#)
- [Independence Student Leads 'Operation Overseas: Treats for Troops'](#)
- [Media Design & Communications Project Connects VLO Student](#)
- [West Hope Squad Ends Anti-Bullying Month with Duckloads of Positivity](#)

New Business

- [First Semester Exams Canceled for High School Students](#)

SHOUT-OUTS



East Senior Wins West Chester VFW 'Voice of Democracy' Contest

For a third consecutive year, Lakota East senior **Rachel Anderson** won the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) patriotic audio essay competition for West Chester Post 7696. She will advance to the District 4 level of competition, where a win would qualify her for the state and then national levels of competition. Second place went to Lakota West senior **Matthew Aude** and third place to Lakota East Freshman **Rameet Malhi**.

The Voice of Democracy has been the VFW's premier scholarship program since 1947. Each year, nearly 57,000 high school students compete for more than \$2 million in scholarships and incentives. Students compete by writing and recording an audio essay on an annual patriotic theme. This year's theme, "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?," produced responses from students that expressed that the Founders would be proud, that the essence of the constitution still lives, and that we are still united in the hope and love of country.

Otterbein Juried Art Exhibition Recognizes Lakota West Artists

The results are in for the 2020 Otterbein High School Juried Art Exhibition, and Lakota West's **Amy Albert** won second place her drawing "Packed Away," and **Katie Evert** took third for her drawing "You Want Sauce?."

Katie, Amy, **Ella Chaffee, Sydney Luebbe, Abby McDonell, Tracy Nguyen, Marialinda Roblero, and Brian Usrey** all received \$2,000 scholarships and could receive up to \$7,500 more after a portfolio review of their artwork. Congratulations to everyone!

AROUND LAKOTA

COVID-19 Communication Update

- Snow Days vs. Remote Learning Days
- Are You Wearing Your Mask Correctly?



COVID-19 Updates: Snow Days, Mask Wearing

Snow Days Will Continue This Year

With December comes winter weather and potential snow days. Lakota Local Schools will continue its practice of using calamity days for all students, both in person and those enrolled in the Virtual Learning Option, should it be deemed necessary to close or delay school due to inclement weather.

[Read more](#)

Words of Wisdom



WE are Lakota

November Words of Wisdom Spotlights Thankfulness

In spite of everything this year, WE certainly have a lot to be thankful for. Take it from some of our students featured in this month's edition of "Words of Wisdom," a monthly video series featuring student voice. Hear what they are most thankful for about 2020.

[Watch the video](#)



Heritage Debuts StoryWalks® for In-Person and VLO Families

What can in-person and virtual learning students do to experience the same thing?

This is the question that Heritage Early Childhood School Assistant Principal **Natalie Jimenez** asked herself. The answer? StoryWalks®.

Set to begin on Dec. 2, students are invited to take a walk with their parents on the grounds of the school, all while reading a book. "I'm a huge early literacy proponent," explained Jimenez. "I think it's a huge value to have kids reading books with their parents."

[Read more](#)



Independence Student Leads 'Operation Overseas: Treats for Troops'

Independence Elementary sixth-grader **Trevor Ernest** drew his inspiration for a recent food drive he organized at his school from his dad, a surgeon in the U.S. Air Force currently deployed in Afghanistan. Called "Operation Overseas: Treats for Troops," the food drive was designed to not only assist the troops overseas with depleting resources, but also bring awareness to the important work they are doing.

The Independence community responded in full force. In this special student spotlight, Trevor and his counselor share the story behind this student-led act of philanthropy.

[Watch the video](#)



Media Design & Communications Project Connects VLO Students

Hundreds of K-2 virtual learners are having some fall and winter fun, thanks to some Hopewell and Liberty junior high VLO students. Students in **Moriah Walker**'s Media Design & Communications class recently took on a project to create activity books full of coloring pages, word searches and math puzzles for younger VLO students at Hopewell and Wyandot early childhood schools.

The project helped build community among Walker's students, while creating connections between the younger and older VLO students.

[Read more](#)



DUCK DUCK HOPE



West Hope Squad Ends Anti-Bullying Month with Duckloads of Positivity

A month marked by acts of kindness and anti-bullying messages at Lakota West High School culminated in "Duck Duck Hope Week," where rubber ducks sprinkled all over campus had but one purpose: to send students and staff off to Thanksgiving break on a positive note.

"It's already a hard year and people aren't feeling themselves," said Lakota West senior and Hope Squad member **Rachel Curry**. "We just wanted to do something to make everyone a little happier."

[Read more](#)

FEATURED PHOTOS



Congratulations



Cheetahs

WE are Lakota

Endeavor Rocket Principal Spotted as Cherokee Cheetah

Endeavor Elementary Principal **LeAnna Webber** paid up on a friendly wager that stacked her school up against Cherokee Elementary in the district's recent "Stuff the Bus" food drive supporting Reach Out Lakota. Cherokee ended up leading the entire district with its donations, accounting for nearly 20 percent of the 16,800 items collected district-wide. As a form of payment, Webber welcomed the Cherokee Cheetahs one morning from the school's rooftop dressed from head-to-toe as a Cheetah!



Photo Contest Winner: Oh! The Places You'll VLO

Congratulations go out to two brothers who starred in several posts in Lakota's Oh! The Places You'll VLO Contest. Woodland fourth-grader **Leo** and Hopewell Junior eighth-grader **Oliver** won the contest with a tweet featuring the photo above that was captioned: Happy Caturday! The two will be receiving a prize basket with Lakota spirit items.

Pictured above: Leo poses with his cat for the winning tweet... it was all his idea!



Thunderhawk Family Steps Up in Giving Campaign

When a call for donations went out, the Thunderhawk family stepped up in a big way! They collected over 850 food, clothing and school supply items for the Boys & Girls Club, a long time partner of the district that serves so many in the community.

NEW BUSINESS



First Semester Exams Canceled for High School Students

End of semester exams for students in grades 9-12 have been cancelled for the first semester this school year. Grades for the first and second quarters will be weighted equally at 50% to determine first semester grades.

The last week of school in December will be full learning days for high school students. Teachers will be working with students to help them get caught up on missing work and wrapping up first semester learning.

[Read more](#)

ON THE RADAR

Dec. 2 Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our next monthly Coffee Chat with the Superintendent is coming up on Dec. 2 at 3 p.m. We hope you will join Superintendent Miller on Facebook Live ([@LakotaSuper](#)) for an update on the school year and to share your questions and concerns.

These virtual coffee chats have been very well attended, and to help efficiently prioritize questions and concerns, consider sending in your thoughts [via Thought Exchange](#). Other participants will have an opportunity to rate your thoughts (and share their own), helping us address the most pressing concerns in the allotted timeframe.

Dec. 3 Virtual Community Conversation: Diversity & Inclusion

Everything WE do is designed to provide a future-ready, student-centered learning experience for every single child. This is the mission statement of Lakota Local Schools. In order to achieve this, WE must ensure that every classroom and school community provide an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all of our students.

On Dec. 3, LODI will host a Community Conversation that challenges students, staff, parents and community members to discuss the current opportunities and challenges for continuing this important work. [Click here for details and to sign up for the Zoom session.](#)

USDA Waiver: Free Meals for All Lakota Students

In response to the financial hardship felt nationwide as a result of the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced an opportunity to provide free meals to all students through the end of the 2020-2021 school year at no cost to the district. This applies to students learning both in-person and through the district's Virtual Learning Option (VLO).

All students can receive one breakfast and one lunch daily at no cost. A-la-carte purchases will still be charged as usual. VLO students are able to participate in a twice-weekly meal distribution program where they can receive up to 10 meals. [Click here to read more about the new USDA waiver providing free meals to all students.](#)

Coffee Chat with the Superintendent

Dec. 2
3 p.m.
Facebook Live

Community

Conversation: Diversity & Inclusion

Dec. 3
6:30 p.m.
Zoom

Lakota Virtual State of the Schools

Dec. 8
7 p.m.
Zoom

Kinship Connections: Overcoming COVID-19 Challenges

Dec. 9
7 p.m.
Zoom

Board of Education Meeting

Dec. 14
6:30 p.m.
Plains Jr. Media Center & Zoom

No School: Winter Break

Dec. 21 - Jan. 4

Professional Development Day for Staff

Jan. 4

District Calendar



Liberty Township, OH 45011
(513) 874-5505
lakota@lakotaonline.com
www.lakotaonline.com